



DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND
POWER OF ATTORNEY

As an undersigned inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and country of citizenship are as stated directly below my name.

I believe (check one) ☐ I am the original, first and sole inventor
☒ I am a joint inventor and the below named inventors are the original and first inventors

of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FORMING A NITRIDE LAYER ON A BIOMEDICAL DEVICE

the specification of which

☐ is attached hereto.
☒ was filed on March 26, 2004,
as Application Serial No. 10/811,485,
and was amended on _____.
(if applicable)

I further declare that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (hereinafter "the Office") all information known to me to be material to patentability of the subject matter which is claimed as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate indicated below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)		Day/Month/Year Filed	Claimed	Priority	
Number	Country			Yes	No
_____	_____	_____	_____	X	

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S. C. §119(e) of any United States provisional application listed below:

Provisional Application Serial No.
60/499,564

Filing Date
September 2, 2003

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s) and PCT international application designating the United States listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

<u>Application Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Status (patented, pending, abandoned)</u>
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I hereby appoint: Robert M. O'Keefe (Reg. No. 35,630), Richard D. Egan (Reg. No. 36,788), Brian W. Peterman (Reg. No. 37,908), William W. Enders (Reg. No. 41,735), and Maximilian R. Peterson (Reg. No. 46,469), each an attorney of the firm of O'KEEFE, EGAN & PETERMAN, as its attorneys for so long as they remain with such firm, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute the application, to make alterations and amendments therein, to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office in connection therewith, and to receive any Letters Patent, and for one year after issuance of such Letters Patent to file any request for a certificate of correction that may be deemed appropriate.

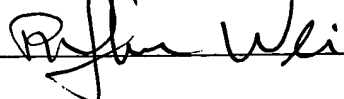
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of first joint inventor: Ronghua Wei

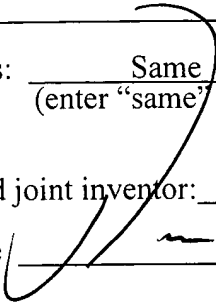
Inventor's Signature  6/21/04
Date

Residence: 7906 Sierra Verde San Antonio, Texas 78240

Citizenship: U.S.

Post Office Address: Same
(enter "same" if mailing address is same as residence address)

Full name of second joint inventor: Thomas L. Booker

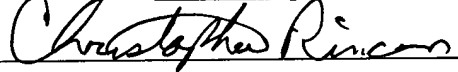
Inventor's Signature  23 JUNE 2004
Date

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Full name of third joint inventor: Christopher Rincon

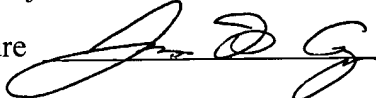
Inventor's Signature  6-16-04
Date

Residence: 11430 Big Elk Drive San Antonio, Texas 78245

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(enter "same" if mailing address is same as residence address)

Full name of fourth joint inventor: James H. Arps

Inventor's Signature  6/21/04
Date

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